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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,780	02/28/2002	Kurt Frieden	PLM012001	2040

29825 7590 04/16/2004

LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD A. DUNNING, JR.  
343 SOQUEL AVENUE  
SUITE 311  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

EXAMINER


PANNALA, SATHYANARAYA R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/085,780	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FRIEDEN ET AL. 	
	<b>Examiner</b> Sathyanarayan Pannala	<b>Art Unit</b> 2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, 14-24, 30-40, 46-56 and 62-64, the independent claim 1 is claiming for a method for retrieving records in a hierarchical set of records, the independent claim 14 is claiming for a method for selecting records in a hierarchical set of the records having a plurality of hierarchical levels and depths, and the rest of independent claims 17, 30, 33, 46, 49 and 62 are claiming the same concept with a process, apparatus or computer media instead of a method. All these claims are drawn to Database query processing in class 707, subclass 3.
- II. Claims 9-13, 25-29, 41-45 and 57-61, the independent claim 9 is claiming for a method for adding new records to a hierarchical set of records having a plurality of hierarchical levels and depths, and the rest of independent claims 25, 41 and 57 are claiming the same concept with a process, apparatus or computer media instead of a method. All these claims are drawn to Generating Database or data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 102.

- III. Claims 65-80, the independent claim 65 is claiming for a method of tagging a datum in a hierarchical data set having a plurality of hierarchical levels and depths, and the rest of independent claims 69, 73 and 77 are claiming the same concept with a process, apparatus or computer media instead of a method are. All these claims are drawn to Manipulating data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 101.
- IV. Claims 81-82, the independent claim 81 is claiming for a unique tag for a datum in a hierarchical data set having a plurality of hierarchical levels and depths, whereas claim 82 is claiming the same concept with a memory for storing instead of defining a unique tag. These two claims are drawn to Database schema or data structure in class 707, subclass 100.

- 2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant application, each of the respective inventions have a separate utility as in a system not having the others. See MPEP ' 806.05(d).

- 3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for any other group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
6. A telephone call was made to Mr. Richard Dinning on April 14, 2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made and requested to mail the restriction letter.
7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).


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**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (703) 305-3390. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Sathyanarayan Pannala  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2177

srp  
April 14, 2004

  
GRETAL ROBINSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER